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Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
Scientific and Technical Subcommittee
Thirty-seventh session
Vienna, 7-18 February 2000

Provisional agenda[1]

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Statement by the Chairman.
3. General exchange of views and introduction to reports submitted on national activities.
4. The United Nations Programme on Space Applications and the coordination of space activities within the United Nations system following the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III).
5. Matters relating to remote sensing of the Earth by satellites, including applications for developing countries and monitoring of the Earth's environment.
6. Use of nuclear power sources in outer space.
7. International cooperation in human spaceflight.
8. Presentations on new launch systems and ventures.
9. Space debris.
10. Examination of the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit and of its utilization and applications, including, *inter alia*, in the field of space communications, as well as other questions relating to developments in space communications, taking particular account of the needs and interests of developing countries.
11. Draft provisional agenda for the thirty-eighth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.
12. Report to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

Annotations

2. Statement by the Chairman

Following the adoption of the agenda by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, the Chairman will make a statement reviewing developments of relevance to the work of the Subcommittee that have taken place since its thirty-sixth session. After the Chairman's statement, the Subcommittee will organize a schedule of work. The indicative schedule of work, which will be followed with flexibility, is contained in the annex to the present annotated provisional agenda.

3. General exchange of views and introduction to reports submitted on national activities

In accordance with the agreement reached by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space at its forty-second session,[2] this item of the provisional agenda combines a number of previous agenda items, for instance those on the status of science and technology in the fields of remote sensing, launch technology and planetary exploration. The annual reports submitted by member States on their space activities will be made available to the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/729).

4. The United Nations Programme on Space Applications and the coordination of space activities within the United Nations system following the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III)

The General Assembly, in paragraph 18 of its resolution 54/67 of 6 December 1999, agreed that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its thirty-seventh session should reconvene the Working Group of the Whole to consider the future work of the Subcommittee in the light of the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III).

Report of the Expert on Space Applications

The views of the Subcommittee regarding the United Nations Programme on Space Applications for the period 1998-2000 are set out in the report on the work of its thirty-sixth session (A/AC.105/719, paras. 44-57). The views of the Committee on the report of the Subcommittee concerning this item are set out in paragraphs 48-61 of the report of the Committee on its forty-second session.[3]

The General Assembly, in paragraph 21 of its resolution 54/67, endorsed the United Nations Programme on Space Applications for 2000 as proposed to the Committee by the Expert on Space Applications (see A/AC.105/715, paras. 2-40).

The Subcommittee will have before it the report of the Expert covering the implementation of the Programme on Space Applications during 1999 and 2000 (A/AC.105/730). In his report, the Expert will outline his plan to strengthen the activities of the Programme pursuant to paragraph 11 (d) of General Assembly resolution 54/68 of 6 December 1999. The report will highlight arrangements made by the Secretariat with other institutions in the United Nations system and the European Space Agency with respect to the activities of the Programme. The report will also provide the Subcommittee with an update on the regional centres for space science and technology education and the Network of Space

Science and Technology Education and Research Institutions of Central Eastern and South-Eastern Europe.

In addition, the Subcommittee will have before it the following reports on training courses, symposia and workshops held in 1999 under the auspices of the Programme:

(a) Report on the Eighth United Nations/European Space Agency Workshop on Basic Space Science: Scientific Exploration from Space, held in Mafraq, Jordan, from 13 to 17 March 1999 (A/AC.105/723);

(b) Report on the Ninth United Nations/Sweden International Training Course on Remote Sensing Education for Educators, held in Stockholm and Kiruna, Sweden, from 3 May to 11 June 1999 (A/AC.105/725);

(c) Report on the United Nations/China/European Space Agency Conference on Space Applications in Promoting Sustainable Agriculture, held in Beijing from 14 to 17 September 1999 (A/AC.105/728);

(d) Report on the United Nations/International Astronautical Federation Workshop on Space: An Integral Part of Sustainable Development, held in Amsterdam and Enschede, Netherlands, from 30 September to 3 October 1999 (A/AC.105/733);

(e) Report on the Second United Nations/Spain Workshop on Space Technology for Emergency Aid/Search and Rescue Satellite-Aided Tracking System for Ships in Distress, held in Maspalomas, Gran Canaria, Spain, from 23 to 25 November 1999 (A/AC.105/732).

Report of the Secretary-General on coordination of space activities within the United Nations system

The twentieth session of the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities will be held in Vienna from 2 to 4 February 2000. The report of that Meeting, as well as the report entitled "Coordination of outer space activities within the United Nations system: programme of work for 2000 and 2001 and future years", will be made available to the Subcommittee.

5. Matters relating to remote sensing of the Earth by satellites, including applications for developing countries and monitoring of the Earth's environment

The General Assembly, in paragraph 15 (a) of its resolution 54/67, endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee, at its thirty-seventh session, should consider this item.

6. Use of nuclear power sources in outer space

The General Assembly, in paragraph 15 (b) of its resolution 54/67, endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee, at its thirty-seventh session, should consider the item on the use of nuclear power sources in outer space in accordance with the work plan adopted by the Subcommittee at its thirty-fifth session (A/AC.105/697 and Corr.1, annex III, appendix). According to the work plan, the Subcommittee at its thirty-seventh session should identify terrestrial processes and technical standards that may be relevant to nuclear power sources, including factors that distinguish nuclear power sources in outer space from terrestrial nuclear applications.

The Committee, at its forty-second session, requested the Secretariat to invite Member States and international organizations to submit to the Subcommittee at its thirty-seventh session information on the identification of terrestrial processes and technical standards that might be relevant to nuclear power sources, including factors that distinguished nuclear power sources in outer space from terrestrial nuclear processes.[4] Accordingly, the Subcommittee will have before it a document (A/AC.105/731) containing information on the subject received by the Secretariat from Member States and international organizations.

The General Assembly, in paragraph 19 of its resolution 54/67, agreed that the Subcommittee at its thirty-seventh session should reconvene its Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space.

7. International cooperation in human spaceflight

The General Assembly, in paragraph 15 (c) of its resolution 54/67, endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee at its thirty-seventh session should consider this item as a single issue and item for discussion.

8. Presentations on new launch systems and ventures

The General Assembly, in paragraph 15 (c) of its resolution 54/67, endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee at its thirty-seventh session should consider this item as a single issue and item for discussion.

9. Space debris

The General Assembly, in paragraph 15 (c) of its resolution 54/67, endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee at its thirty-seventh session should consider this item as a single issue and item for discussion on a priority basis.

The General Assembly, in paragraph 20 of its resolution 54/67, also endorsed the recommendation of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space,[2] that the Subcommittee at its thirty-seventh session should review international application of the standards of the International Telecommunication Union and recommendations of the Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee concerning the disposal of satellites in geosynchronous orbit at the end of their useful life. In accordance with the agreement reached by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space at its forty-second session, the area of focus could be expanded to include the disposal of upper stages used to achieve geosynchronous orbits and debris issues associated with geosynchronous transfer orbits. To facilitate that work, the Committee recommended that the Secretariat compile relevant data on space objects in geosynchronous orbit.[5] In response to that recommendation, the Subcommittee will have before it a document (A/AC.105/734) containing information on the subject received by the Secretariat from Member States and international organizations.

The Committee agreed that the Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee should be invited to make a technical presentation on its work to the Subcommittee at its thirty-seventh session.[6]

10. Examination of the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit and of its utilization and applications, including, *inter alia*, in the field of space communications, as well as other questions relating to developments in space communications, taking particular account of the needs and interests of developing countries

The General Assembly, in paragraph 15 (c) of its resolution 54/67, endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee at its thirty-seventh session should consider this item as a single issue and item for discussion.

11. Draft provisional agenda for the thirty-eighth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee

The General Assembly, in paragraph 16 of its resolution 54/67, noted that the Subcommittee at its thirty-seventh session would submit its proposal to the Committee for a draft provisional agenda for the thirty-eighth session of the Subcommittee, in 2001. In accordance with the agreement reached by the Committee at its forty-second session, discussion under this item of the provisional agenda should include identification of subjects to be dealt with as single issues and items for discussion or under multi-year work plans, based primarily on the results of UNISPACE III.[2] The Assembly, in paragraph 18 of its resolution 54/67, agreed that the Subcommittee should reconvene the Working Group of the Whole to consider the future work of the Subcommittee in the light of the recommendations of UNISPACE III.

Symposia to be organized during the thirty-seventh session of the Subcommittee

Pursuant to paragraph 17 of General Assembly resolution 54/67, a symposium on the theme "Space commercialization: an era of new opportunities and challenges" will be organized by the Committee on Space Research and the International Astronautical Federation on 7 and 8 February 2000.

Pursuant to paragraph 11 (b) of General Assembly resolution 54/68, in order to strengthen the partnership of the Subcommittee with industry, a one-day symposium will be organized during the thirty-seventh session of the Subcommittee to provide Member States with updated information on commercially available products, services and ongoing activities of space-related industry. The theme of the symposium will be "Interactive multimedia satellite services: implications for the twenty-first century".

Other reports

The following reports will also be before the Subcommittee at its thirty-seventh session:

(a) *Proceedings of the Technical Forum* (ST/SPACE/1), a compilation of papers from the Technical Forum of UNISPACE III;

(b) *Highlights in Space: Progress in Space Science, Technology and Applications, International Cooperation and Space Law, 1999* (ST/SPACE/4), consisting of reports submitted by the Committee on Space Research, the International Astronautical Federation and the International Institute of Space Law;

(c) *Seminars of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications* (ST/SPACE/3), a compilation of selected papers presented during activities of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications in 1999.

Notes

[1] The General Assembly, in paragraph 15 of its resolution 54/67 of 6 December 1999, welcomed the new approach taken by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in composing the agenda of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee (*Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/54/20), annex I, sect. A) and endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee, at its thirty-seventh session, consider, *inter alia*, item 6, on the use of nuclear power sources in outer space, in accordance with the work plan adopted by the Subcommittee at its thirty-fifth session (A/AC.105/697 and Corr.1, annex III, appendix) and items 7-10 as single issues and items for discussion (item 9 on a priority basis).

[2] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/54/20), annex I, sect. A.

[3] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/54/20).

[4] Ibid., para. 84.

[5] Ibid., para. 44.

[6] Ibid., para. 40.

Annex

Indicative schedule of work[a]

Date	*Morning*	*Afternoon*
Week of 7-11 February 2000		
Monday, 7 February	Item 1. Adoption of the agenda Item 2. Statement by the Chairman Item 3. General exchange of views	Item 3. General exchange of views Symposium on the theme "Space Commericalization: An Era of New Opportunities and Challenges"
Tuesday, 8 February	Item 3. General exchange of views Item 4. United Nations Programme on Space Applications[b]	Item 4. United Nations Programme on Space Applications[b] Symposium on the theme "Space Commercialization: An Era of New Opportunities and Challenges"
Wednesday, 9 February	Item 4. United Nations Programme on Space Applications[b] Item 5. Remote sensing Symposium on the theme "Interactive multimedia satellite services: implications for the twenty-first century"	Item 4. United Nations Programme on Space Applications[b] Symposium on the theme "Interactive multimedia satellite services: implications for the twenty-first century"
Thursday, 10 February	Item 5. Remote sensing Item 7. International cooperation in human spaceflight	Item 7. International cooperation in human spaceflight Item 8. Presentations on new launch systems and ventures
Friday, 11 February	Item 8. Presentations on new launch systems and ventures Item 10. Geostationary orbit	Item 8. Presentations on new launch systems and ventures Item 10. Geostationary orbit

[a] At its thirty-eighth session, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space agreed that Member States would continue to be provided with an indicative schedule of work, which would be without prejudice to the actual timing of consideration of specific agenda items (*Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/50/20), paras. 168 and 169 (b)).

[b] The Working Group of the Whole, to be reconvened pursuant to paragraph 18 of General Assembly resolution 54/67 of 6 December 1999, will meet during the time allocated for the consideration of items 4 and 11. Arrangements will be made for informal meetings of the Working Group as required. The Subcommittee will resume its consideration of items 4 and 11 on Thursday, 17 February, with a view to adopting the report of the Working Group.

Date	*Morning*	*Afternoon*
Week of 14-18 February 2000		
Monday, 14 February	Item 9. Space debris	Item 9. Space debris
Tuesday, 15 February	Item 9. Space debris Item 6. Nuclear power sources[c]	Item 9. Space debris Item 6. Nuclear power sources[c]
Wednesday, 16 February	Item 6. Nuclear power sources[c] Item 11. Draft provisional agenda for the thirty-eighth session of the Subcommittee[b]	Item 6. Nuclear power sources[c] Item 11. Draft provisional agenda for the thirty-eighth session of the Subcommittee[b]
Thursday, 17 February	Item 4. United Nations Programme on Space Applications[b] Item 11. Draft provisional agenda for the thirty-eighth session of the Subcommittee[b]	Item 12. Report to the Committee
Friday, 18 February	Item 12. Report to the Committee	Item 12. Report to the Committee

[c] The Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space, to be reconvened in accordance with paragraph 19 of General Assembly resolution 54/67, will meet during the time allocated for the consideration of item 6. At the final meeting in which this item is discussed, the Subcommittee will adopt the report of the Working Group.